



STARMAN



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JAMES ROBINSON
TONY HARRIS
WADE VON GRAWBADGER

I GOTTA SAY, DAVEY, I WAS EXPECTING ANOTHER SURPRISE.

YOU POPPING OUT FROM NOWHERE. "PSYCHE!" AND THEN WE'D GET THINGS ROLLING.

BUT THIS TIME, IT WAS LIKE I BLINKED, I WENT FROM MY WORLD TO THIS IN A HEARTBEAT AND THERE YOU WERE STANDING BEFORE ME.

YEAH, WELL, I KNEW YOU'D BE EXPECTING ME. THAT DIDN'T TAKE EINSTEIN TO FIGURE OUT.

SO I DECIDED THE DIRECT APPROACH WAS THE RIGHT WAY THIS TIME.

I MET EINSTEIN, BY THE WAY. HE HAD NICE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT DAD.

REALLY?

YEAH.

COOL.

FOR ME IT WAS, YEAH. WAY COOL. I KNOW YOU WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO MEET GEORGE ZUCCO OR IRENE DUNNE, BUT THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US.

AND I'M FINALLY BEGINNING TO SEE NEITHER OF US WAS BETTER THAN THE OTHER FOR THAT DIFFERENCE, EITHER.

ME TOO.

SO WHAT'S AHEAD?

A SMALL PARTY. A FEW FRIENDS.

THROUGH HERE, I HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY...

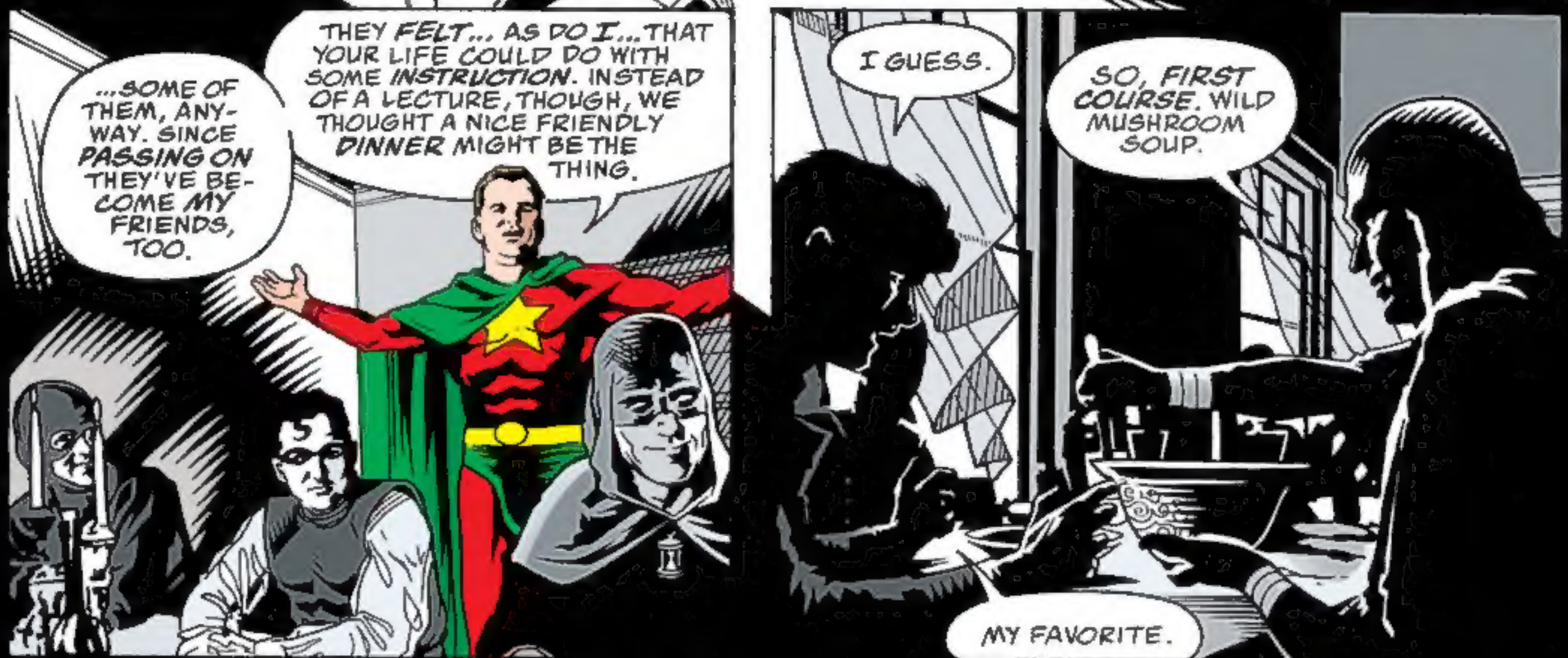
JACK KNIGHT
created by
JAMES ROBINSON
& TONY HARRIS

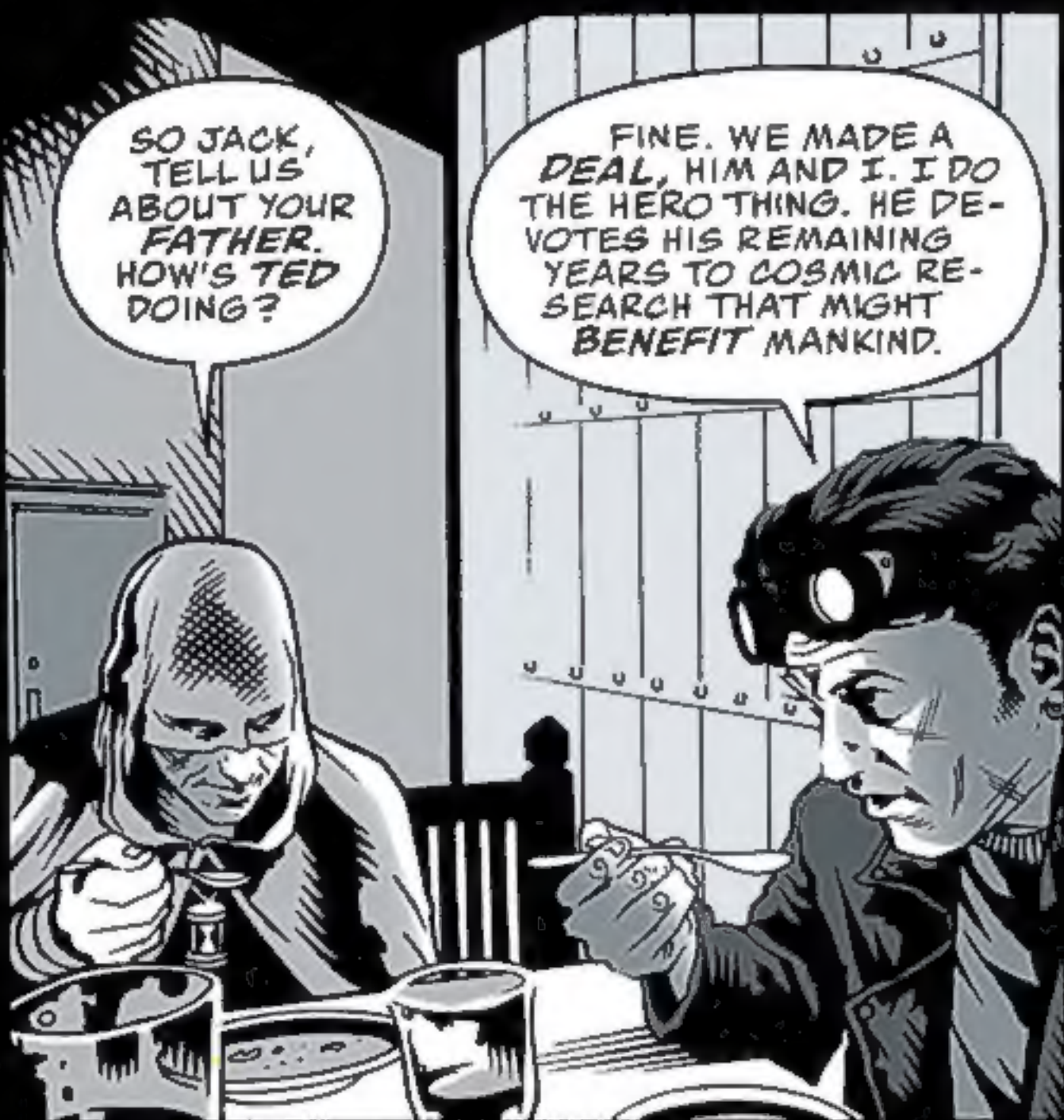
... CAUSE
DINNER IS
SERVED!

Talking With David, '97

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SO JACK, TELL US ABOUT YOUR FATHER. HOW'S TED DOING?

FINE. WE MADE A DEAL, HIM AND I. I DO THE HERO THING. HE DEVOTES HIS REMAINING YEARS TO COSMIC RESEARCH THAT MIGHT BENEFIT MANKIND.



IS HE HAPPY?

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD.

YOU KNOW, I'M NOT SURE. I'VE NEVER THOUGHT TO ASK HIM.

YES.



I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU, JACK. IF YOU ARE DOING THE HERO THING. IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT IT.

YES.

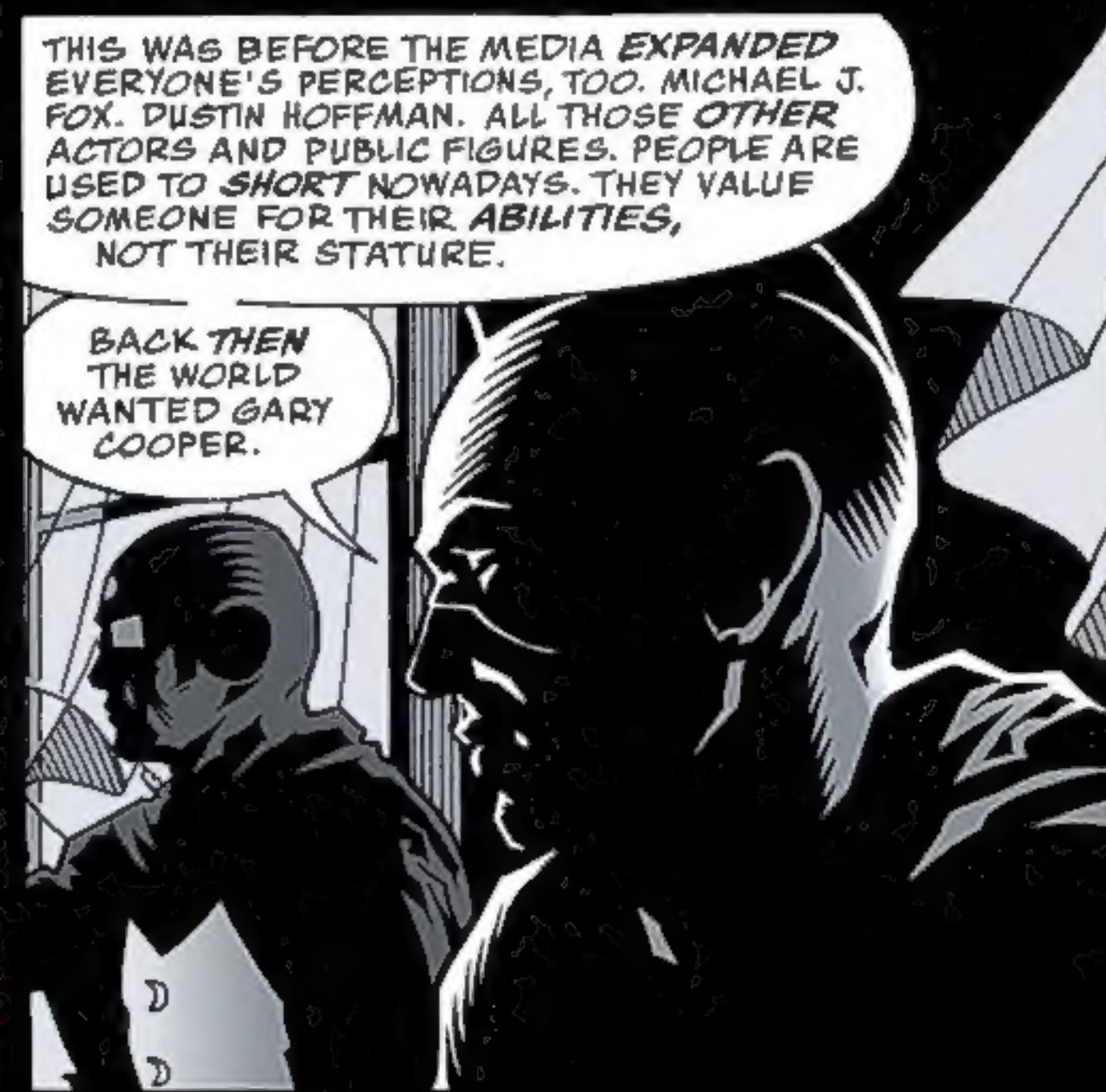


YOU HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE. THE FACT THAT YOU'RE DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS ENOUGH. YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONVINCE ANYONE YOU'RE A HERO.

DID YOU?

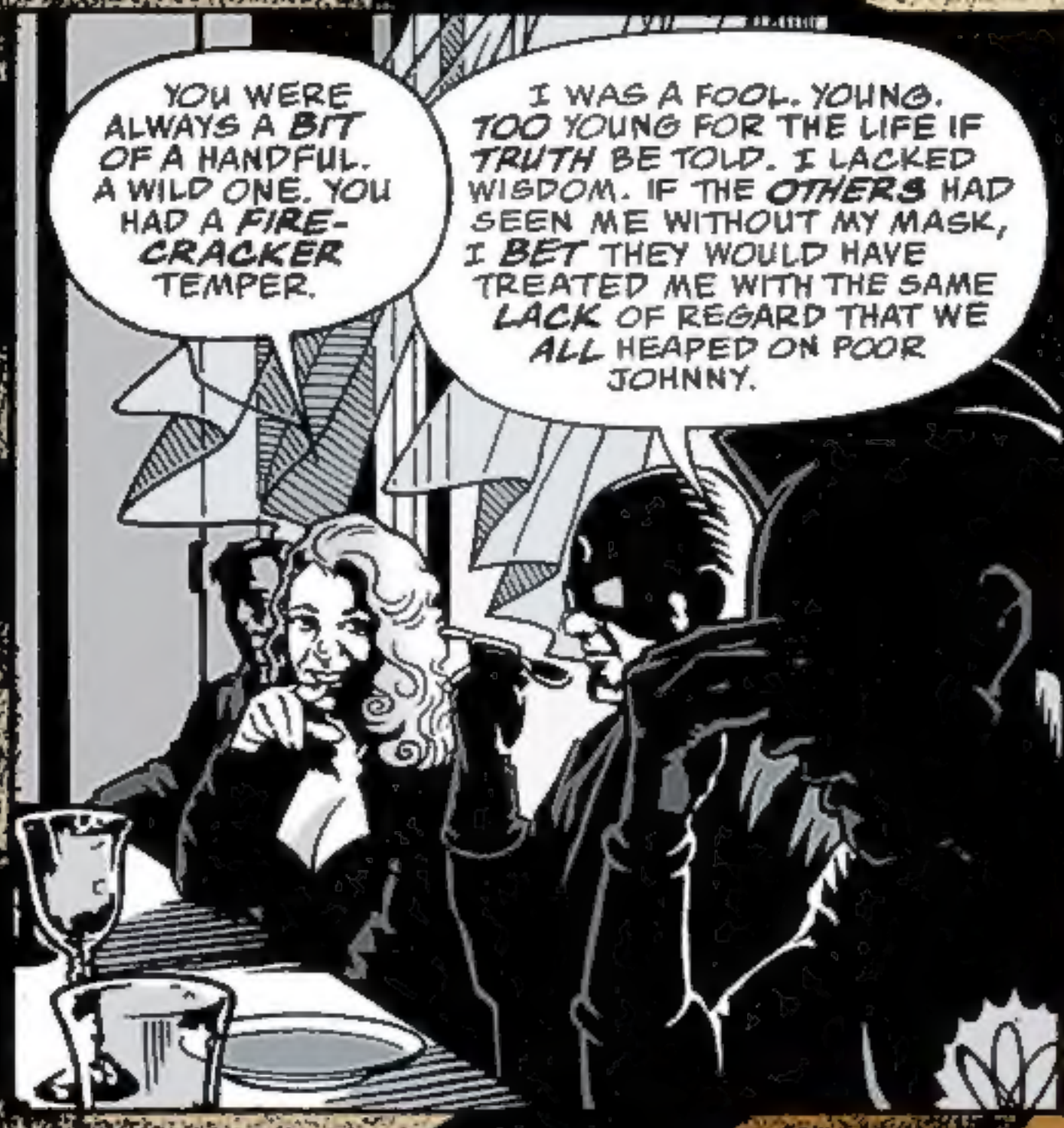


ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M 5'1". I HAD TO PROVE MYSELF TO EVERYONE. NOT JUST AS A HERO, BUT AS A MAN. THE GIRL I MARRIED ... THE FIRST TIME I SAW HER, SHE THOUGHT I WAS A JOKE. EVERYONE FELT THAT WAY.



THIS WAS BEFORE THE MEDIA EXPANDED EVERYONE'S PERCEPTIONS, TOO. MICHAEL J. FOX. DUSTIN HOFFMAN. ALL THOSE OTHER ACTORS AND PUBLIC FIGURES. PEOPLE ARE USED TO SHORT NOWADAYS. THEY VALUE SOMEONE FOR THEIR ABILITIES, NOT THEIR STATURE.

BACK THEN THE WORLD WANTED GARY COOPER.



YOU WERE ALWAYS A BIT OF A HANDFUL. A WILD ONE. YOU HAD A FIRE-CRACKER TEMPER.

I WAS A FOOL. YOUNG. TOO YOUNG FOR THE LIFE IF TRUTH BE TOLD. I LACKED WISDOM. IF THE OTHERS HAD SEEN ME WITHOUT MY MASK, I BET THEY WOULD HAVE TREATED ME WITH THE SAME LACK OF REGARD THAT WE ALL HEAPED ON POOR JOHNNY.



JOHNNY?

THUNDER.

THE GUN-FIGHTER?

NO. A DIFFERENT J.T. ASK YOUR FATHER.



ANYWAY, I HIT THE MYSTERY MAN LIFE WITH THE SAME INTENSITY AND ANGER I'D BEEN FORCED TO ADOPT FOR EVERYTHING ELSE. I DIDN'T ENTER IT WITH GRACE-- I ATTACKED IT LIKE A PIT BULL.

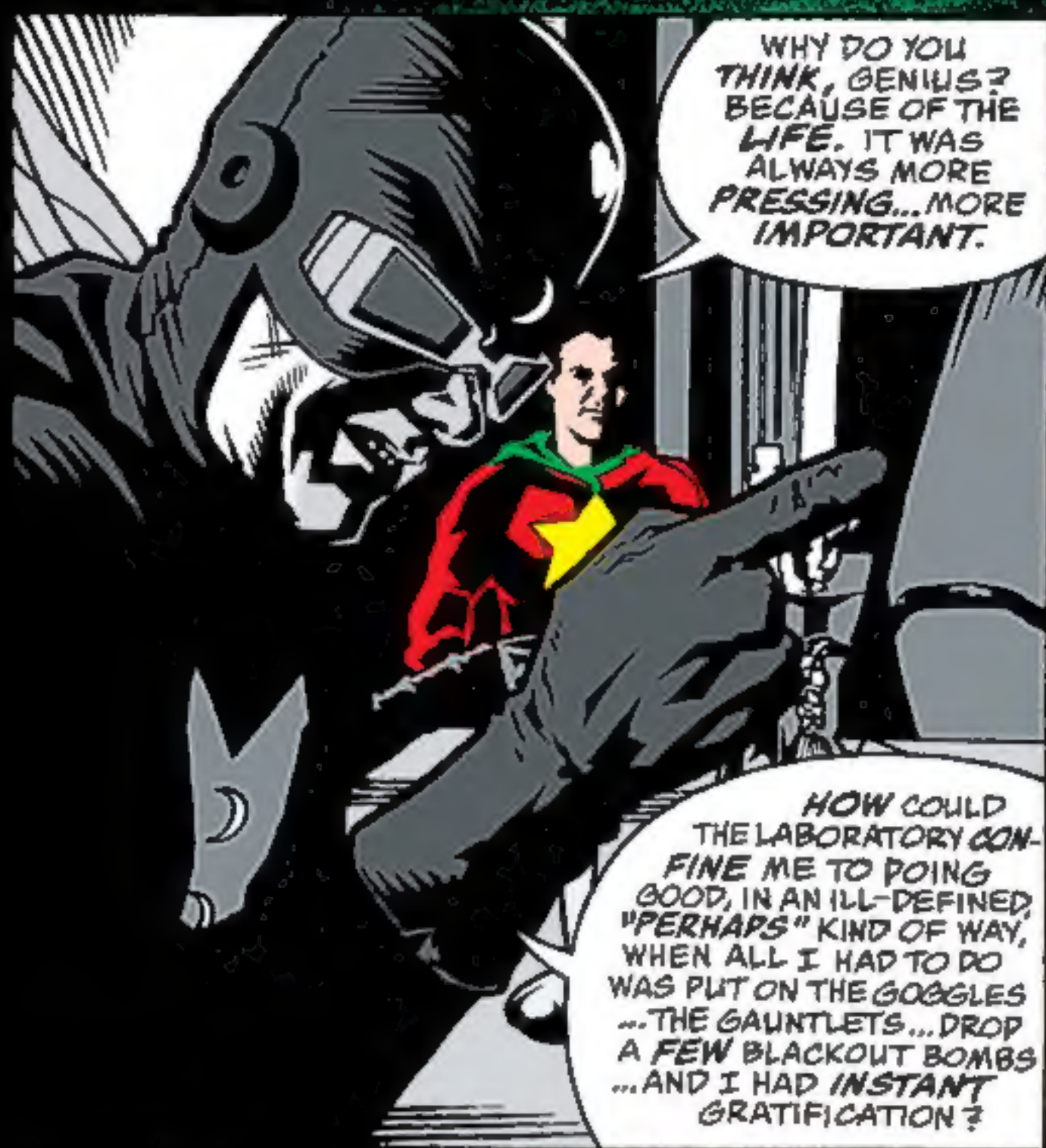
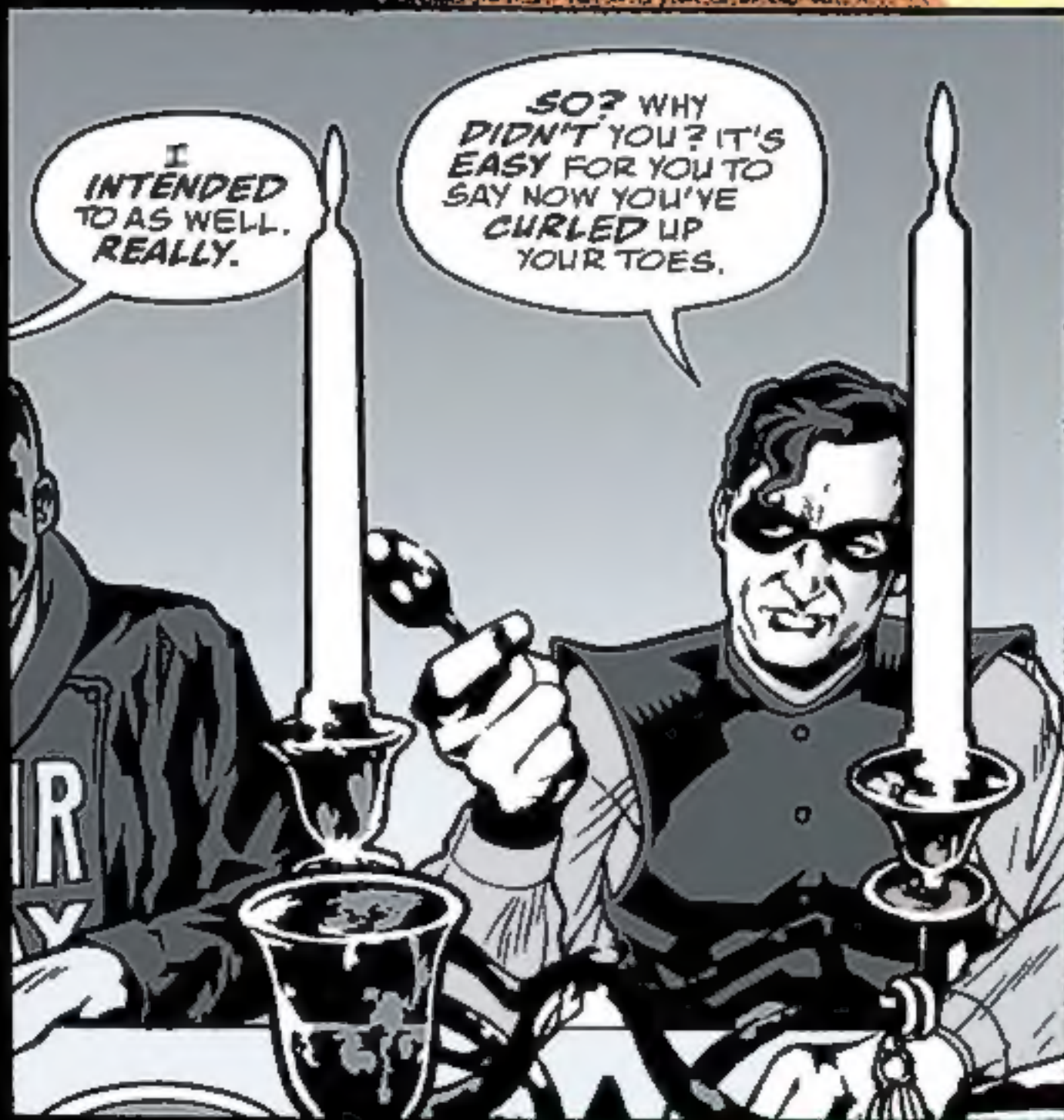
BUT YOU WERE GOOD AT IT. BEING A MASKED HERO. DON'T FORGET THAT.

YEAH.

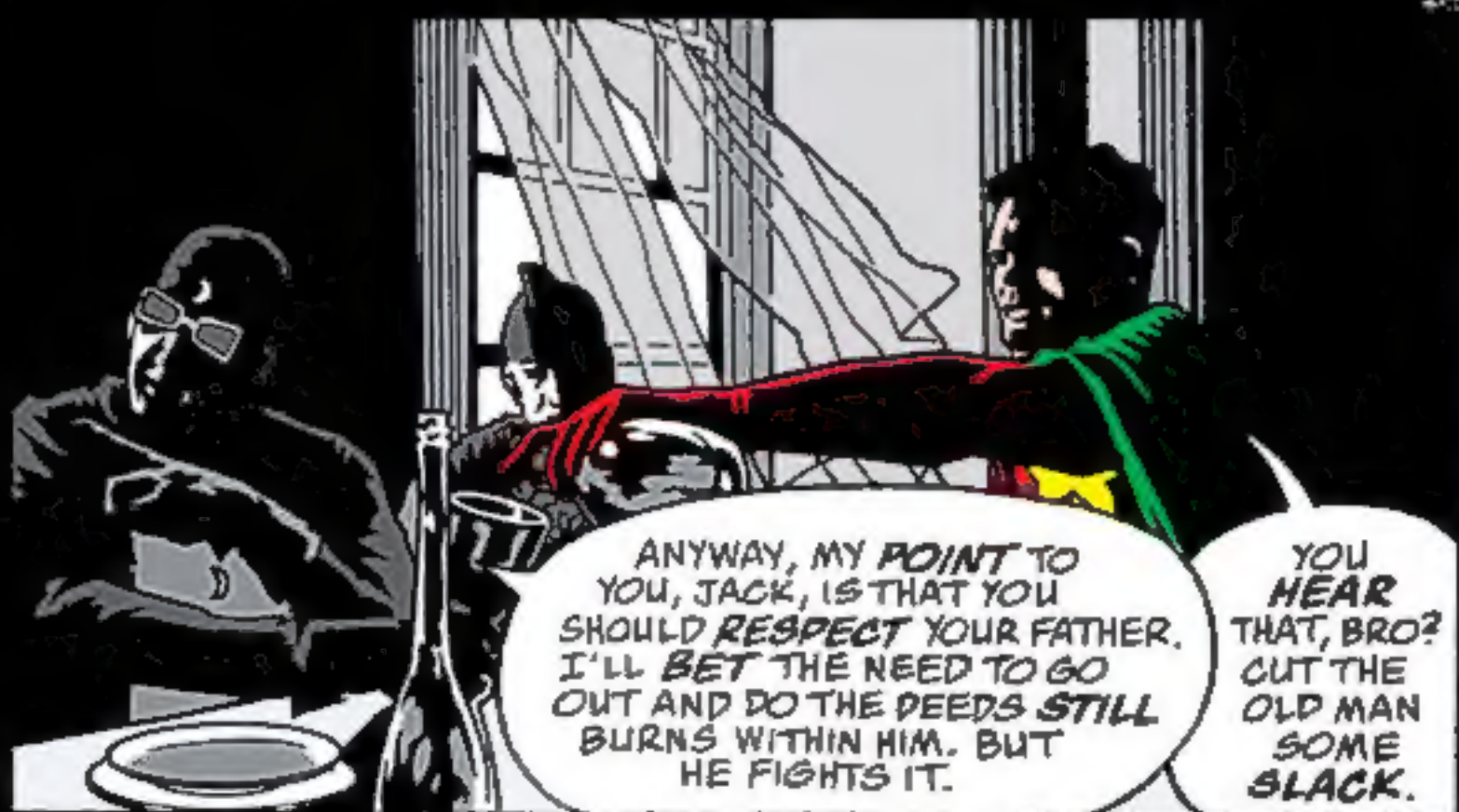


"I GUESS I WAS AT THAT."





"... BUT IT NEVER
TOOK MY SPIRIT."



ANYWAY, MY POINT TO YOU, JACK, IS THAT YOU SHOULD RESPECT YOUR FATHER. I'LL BET THE NEED TO GO OUT AND DO THE DEEDS STILL BURNS WITHIN HIM. BUT HE FIGHTS IT.

YOU HEAR THAT, BRO? CUT THE OLD MAN SOME SLACK.

AT LEAST YOU HAVE THE PRESENT.



I DO. YOU DON'T SEE IT. MAYBE HE DOESN'T, EITHER. BUT WE'RE TALKING NOW, MORE THAN EVER. I LIKE IT, TOO.

MAKES ME SAD FOR ALL THE TIME WHEN I HATED BOTH OF YOU ... ALL THAT WASTED TIME. BUT AT LEAST--



I LOST MY DAUGHTER FOR TWENTY YEARS. I WAS EXILED TO A MAGICAL DIMENSION. MY LITTLE GIRL GREW UP AND BECAME A WOMAN ... A HEROINE. AND I NEVER SAW ANY OF IT.

I CAME BACK, THANKS TO SOME OF YOUR MASKED BROTHERS ... THANKS TO MY DAUGHTER'S TENACITY.

SO ... WHAT'S YOUR MESSAGE, O WISE ONE?



SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH AN UNPLEASANT FELLOW?

YEAH, YOU ARE ONE GRADE-A JERK!

YOU DON'T LIKE THE CONVERSATION, YOU KNOW WHERE YOU CAN GO.



NO, THE FOOD IS GOOD. I BET THERE'S GOOD DESSERT AND COFFEE. MAYBE PORT WINE OR BRANDY AS WELL. I'M NOT BUDGING.

THEN SHUT UP.

SO, JOHN, YOU WERE SAYING?



JOHN? I THOUGHT YOUR NAME WAS--

I'M NOT SURE. I'M SORRY.

ZATARA IS MY LAST NAME. YOU THOUGHT I HAD MERELY THE ONE ... LIKE CHER?

DON'T BE. I WAS JOKING.



MY POINT WAS THAT MY DAUGHTER AND I HAD NO TIME...VERY LITTLE...A MATTER OF A FEW YEARS TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

THEN THE WORLD BECAME THREATENED AS THE WORLD OFTEN IS...AND I DIED TRYING TO SAVE IT.



AT LEAST I COULD SAY GOODBYE TO ZATANNA BEFORE I LEFT HER THAT SECOND TIME.



ANYWAY THE TIME WE HAD WE SAVORED. DON'T REGRET TIME LOST, JACK, JUST REJOICE IN THE TIME LIVED.

I WILL, JOHN. THANK YOU FOR THE ADVICE.



YOU KNEW A FRIEND OF MINE, CHARITY. YOU AND HER WERE ACQUAINTED.

I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT THAT. FORGIVE ME FOR APPEARING UNGALLANT FOR REVEALING THIS, BUT SHE AND I WERE LOVERS FOR THE SHORTEST OF TIMES. THEN WE BECAME FRIENDS FOR MUCH LONGER...RIGHT UP UNTIL THE FLAMES DEVoured ME.



LOVERS?

OH, DEAR. I HOPE YOU AND SHE AREN'T--

I HOPE THIS HASN'T COLORED YOUR FEELINGS FOR--

NO. WE'RE FRIENDS. THAT'S ALL.



WE BROKE UP FOR THE OBVIOUS REASON.

WHICH WAS?

THIRTY YEARS DIFFERENCE IN AGE.



I WAS LONELY WHEN WE MET. MY WIFE WAS DEAD.

CHARITY WAS YOUNG, SHE ADMIRERD ME

I ALLOWED IT TO HAPPEN, THOUGH I KNEW NOTHING GOOD COULD COME OF IT.

THOUGH SURPRISINGLY, SOMETHING DID. THE FRIENDSHIP I SPOKE OF.



THERE'S A BOOK ABOUT YOU. WRITTEN IN THE '50s.

"ZATARA: MAN OF MAGIC." BORING TITLE. BORING BOOK.

I THINK I'D STILL LIKE TO READ IT.



THERE ISN'T MUCH IN IT YOU PROBABLY DON'T ALREADY KNOW. I WAS A MAGICIAN. I RAN AROUND NEW YORK IN A TUXEDO... LOOKING ELEGANT AS HELL, I MIGHT ADD...



"... AND I FOUGHT CRIMINALS. "





I DON'T HAVE ANY WISDOM FOR YOU, JACK. JUST A WARNING. DON'T LET THE HEAT OF BATTLE CAUSE YOU TO MAKE MISTAKES.

DON'T RUSH INTO PASSION AND PERIL LIKE TED AND I DID WITHOUT A CLEAR HEAD.

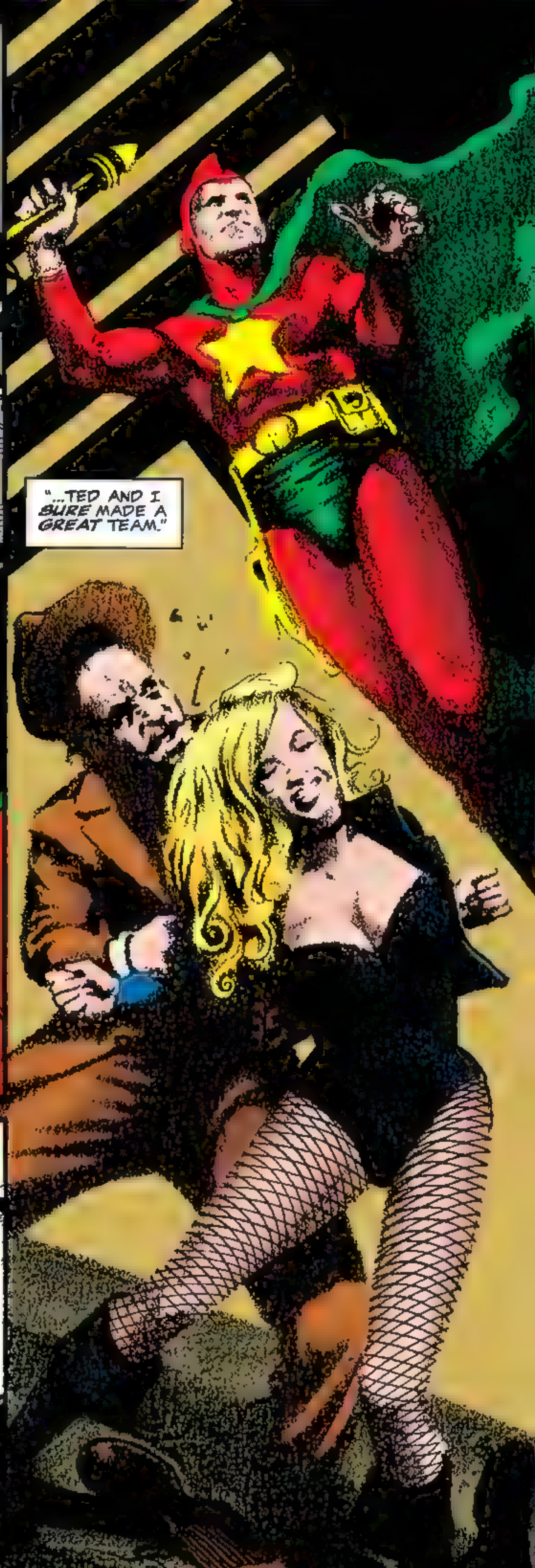
OH, AND IN CASE YOU'RE WORRIED, THE REASON OUR FLING DIDN'T GO FURTHER WAS BECAUSE BOTH OF US GENUINELY LOVED OUR SPOUSES.



YOU HEAR ME, BOYS? TED LOVED YOUR MOTHER DEEPLY.



STILL...



"...TED AND I SURE MADE A GREAT TEAM."



MORE WINE, REX?

SURE, THANKS. I USED TO BE A BEER DRINKER, BUT I'M LEARNING TO ENJOY THE GRAPE.



MY FATHER SPEAKS OF YOU OFTEN, REX. HE TALKS OF YOUR ADDICTIONS. IT SADDENS HIM THAT YOU NEVER QUITE BEAT THEM.

HUH? I HEARD YOU FIXED THE MIRACLO SO IT WASN'T ADDICTIVE.

NO, I'M REFERRING TO REX'S--

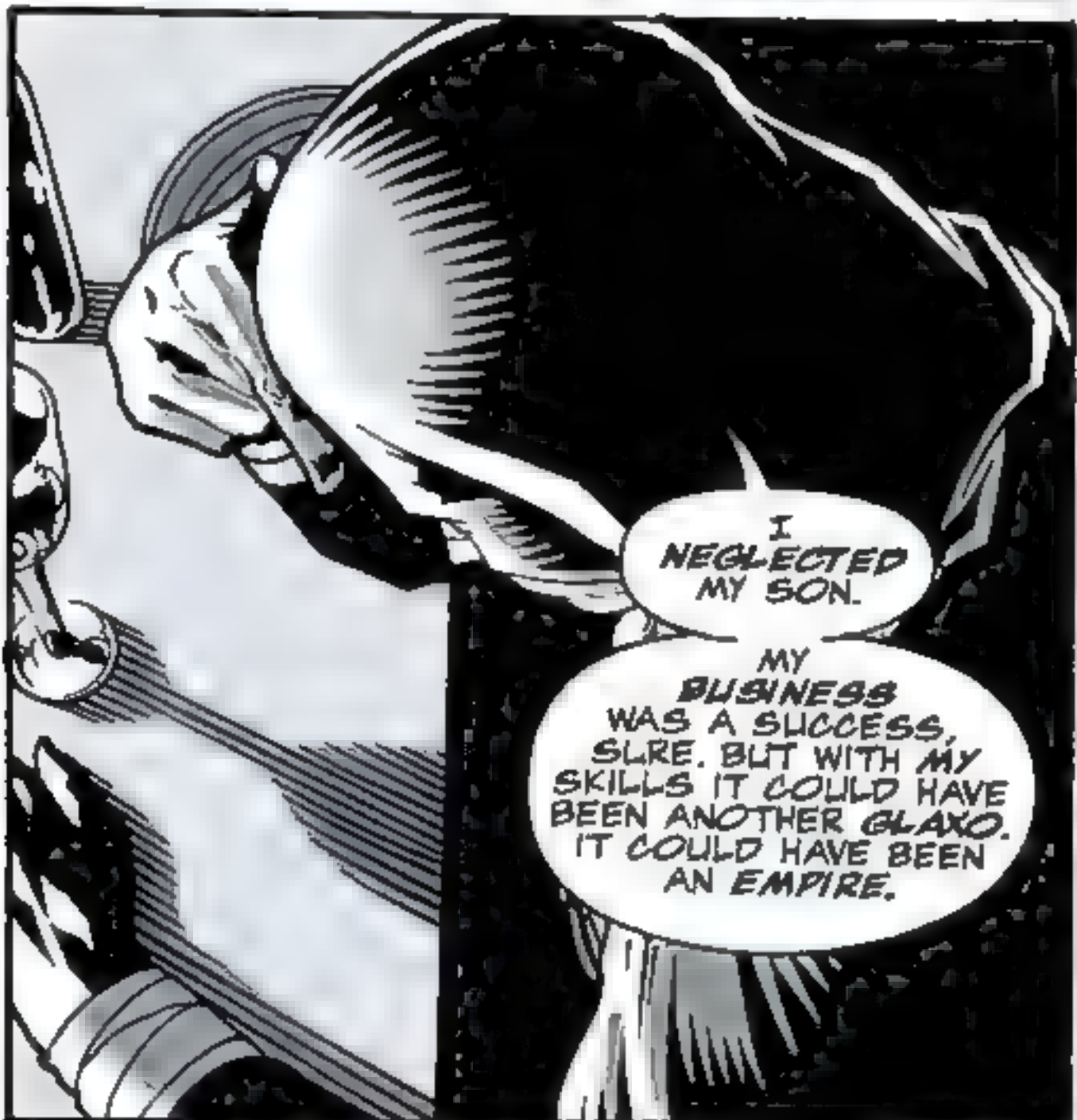


WHAT JACK IS TALKING ABOUT IS MY ADDICTIVE PERSONALITY. WHEN THE SUBSTANCE NO LONGER GRIPPED ME IT BECAME THE LIFESTYLE ITSELF. SUPERHEROICS.

I DON'T GET YOU.

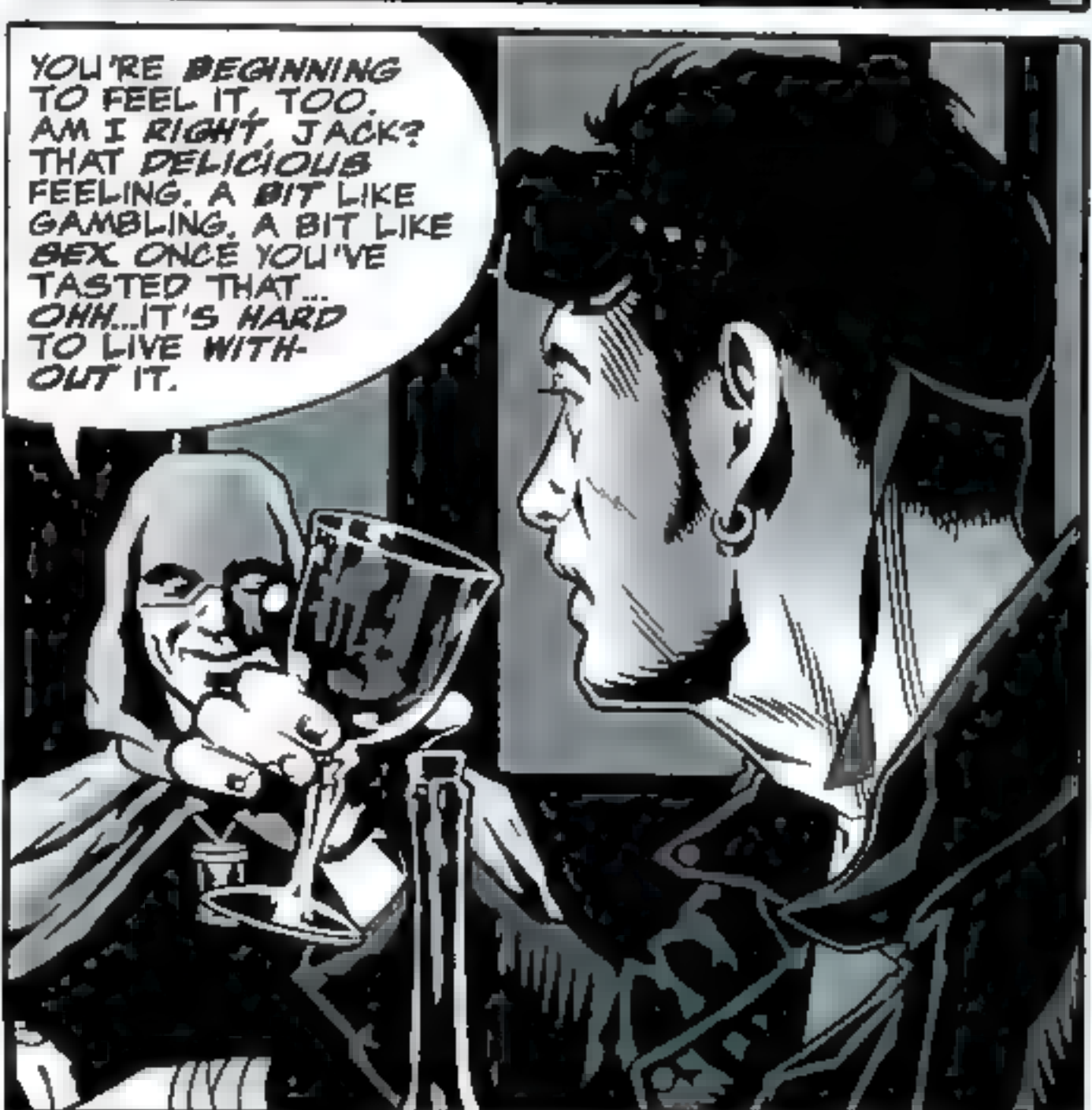


I COULDN'T STOP. I LOVED IT. WHEN BARRY ALLEN AND HAL JORDAN AND THAT WHOLE SECOND WAVE STARTED, I WAS STILL THERE DOING MY THING. IT WASN'T AS WIDELY REPORTED. I WAS AN OLD SUIT AND THEY WERE NEW ONES, SO THEY HAD THE SPOTLIGHT. BUT I WAS STILL OUT THERE. I SIMPLY COULDN'T HANG IT UP.



I NEGLECTED MY SON.

MY BUSINESS WAS A SUCCESS, SURE. BUT WITH MY SKILLS IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANOTHER GLAXO. IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN EMPIRE.



YOU'RE BEGINNING TO FEEL IT, TOO. AM I RIGHT, JACK? THAT DELICIOUS FEELING. A BIT LIKE GAMBLING. A BIT LIKE SEX ONCE YOU'VE TASTED THAT... OHH...IT'S HARD TO LIVE WITHOUT IT.

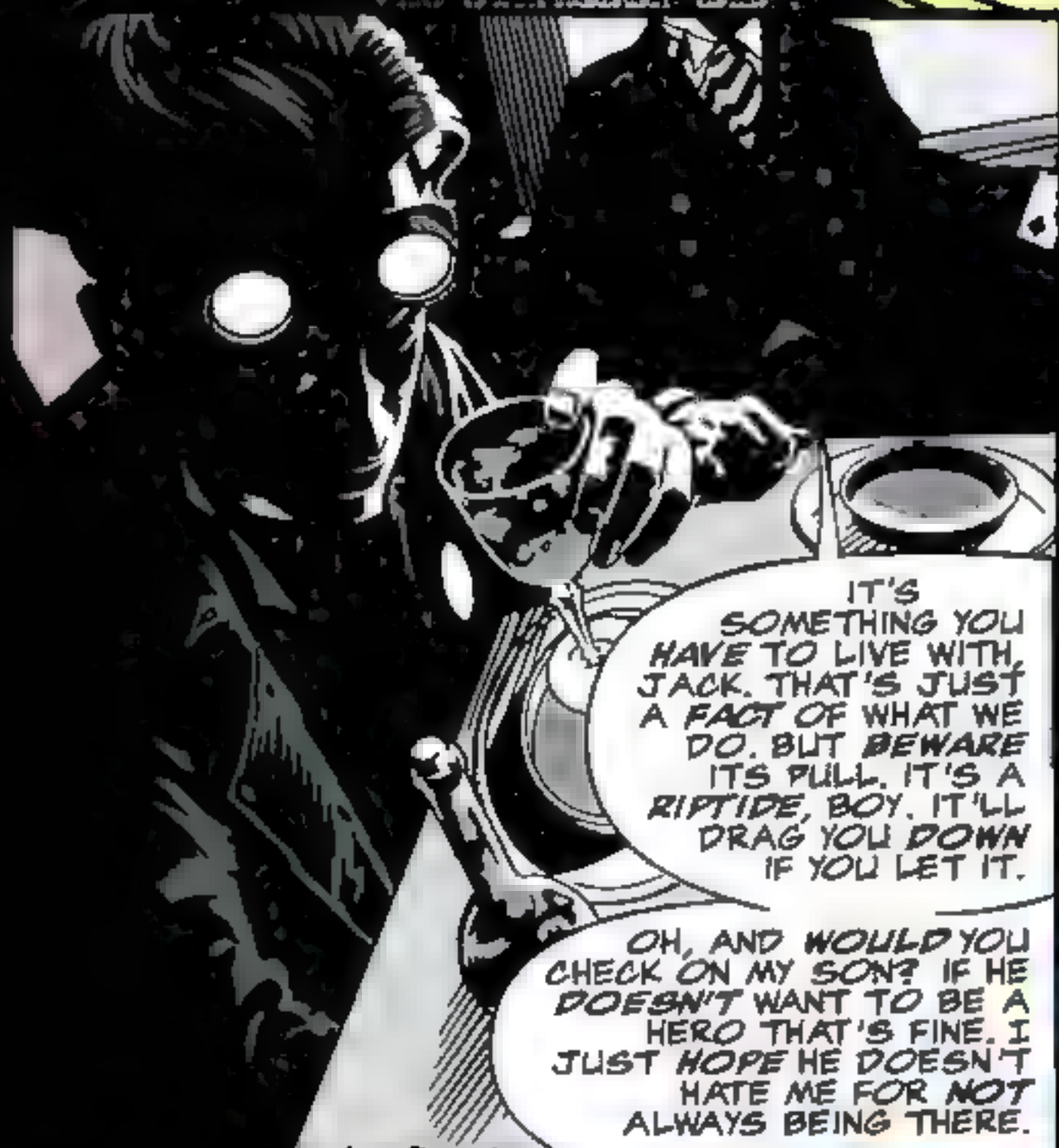


WE ARE
TALKING ABOUT
FIGHTING CRIME
HERE?

OF
COURSE WE
ARE, BEE. I
KNOW WHAT REX
IS TALKING
ABOUT.

WE ALL
DO.

DON'T
YOU?



IT'S
SOMETHING YOU
HAVE TO LIVE WITH,
JACK. THAT'S JUST
A FACT OF WHAT WE
DO. BUT BEWARE
ITS PULL. IT'S A
RIPTIDE, BOY. IT'LL
DRAG YOU DOWN
IF YOU LET IT.

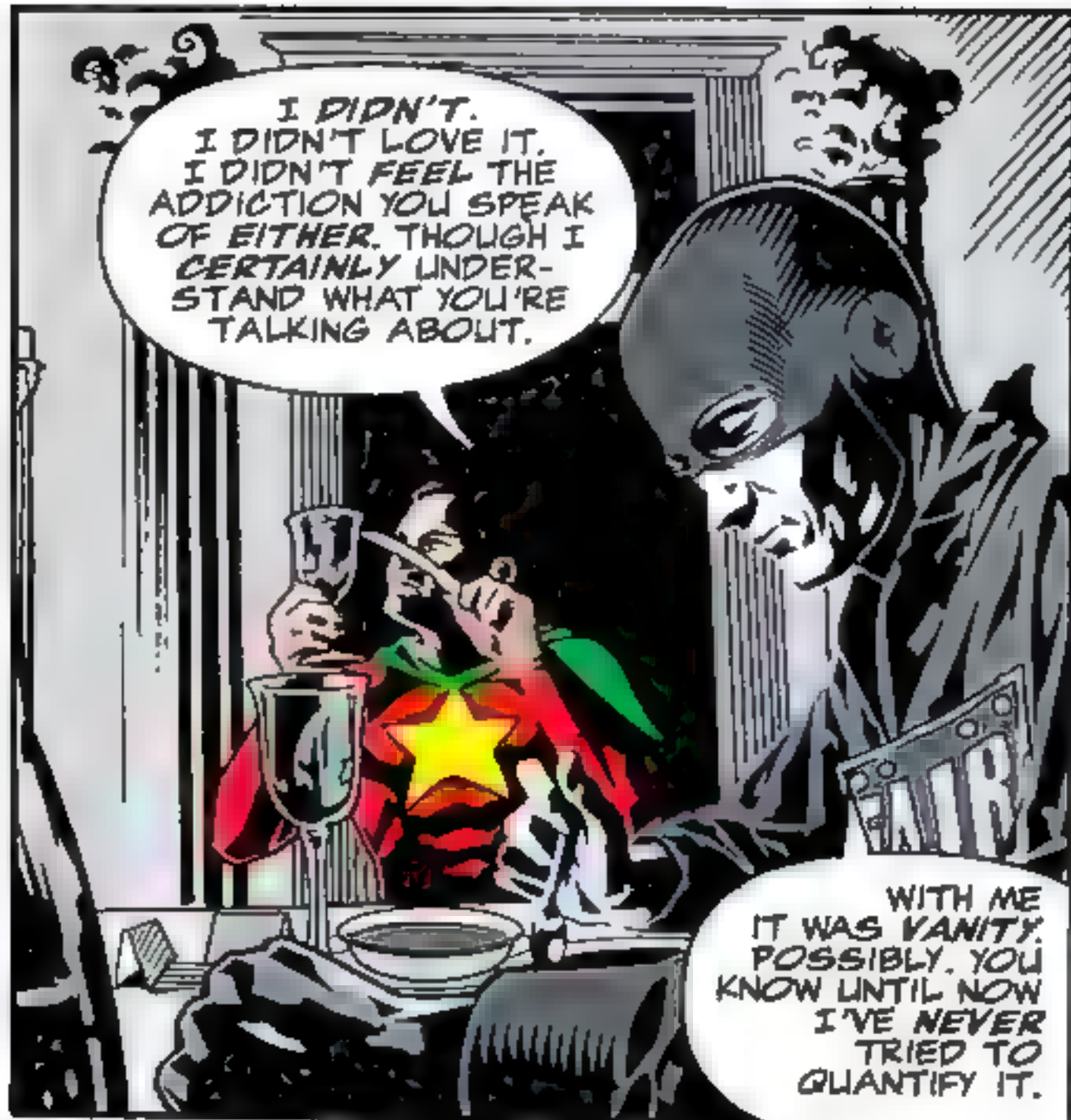
OH, AND WOULD YOU
CHECK ON MY SON? IF HE
DOESN'T WANT TO BE A
HERO THAT'S FINE. I
JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T
HATE ME FOR NOT
ALWAYS BEING THERE.



I'M
HAPPY IF HE
DOES SOMETHING
ELSE WITH HIS
LIFE, AS LONG AS
HE UNDERSTANDS
THIS WAS THE LIFE
I CHOSE AND
THAT ADDICTION
OR NOT...



"...I
LOVED
IT."



I DIDN'T.
I DIDN'T LOVE IT.
I DIDN'T FEEL THE
ADDICTION YOU SPEAK
OF EITHER. THOUGH I
CERTAINLY UNDER-
STAND WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT.

WITH ME
IT WAS VANITY.
POSSIBLY. YOU
KNOW UNTIL NOW
I'VE NEVER
TRIED TO
QUANTIFY IT.



DO YOU
KNOW MUCH
ABOUT ME,
JACK?

ERR...
I RECOGNIZE
YOUR NAME.



OF COURSE YOU DO.
EVERYBODY REMEMBERS
IT. EVERYBODY WHO HAS
A KNOWLEDGE OF
SUPERHEROES LOVES
ME...LOVES THE MEMORY
OF ME. AND WHY? I HAD
NO POWERS. I HAD NO
AMAZING ROGUES
GALLERY.



YOUR COSTUME.

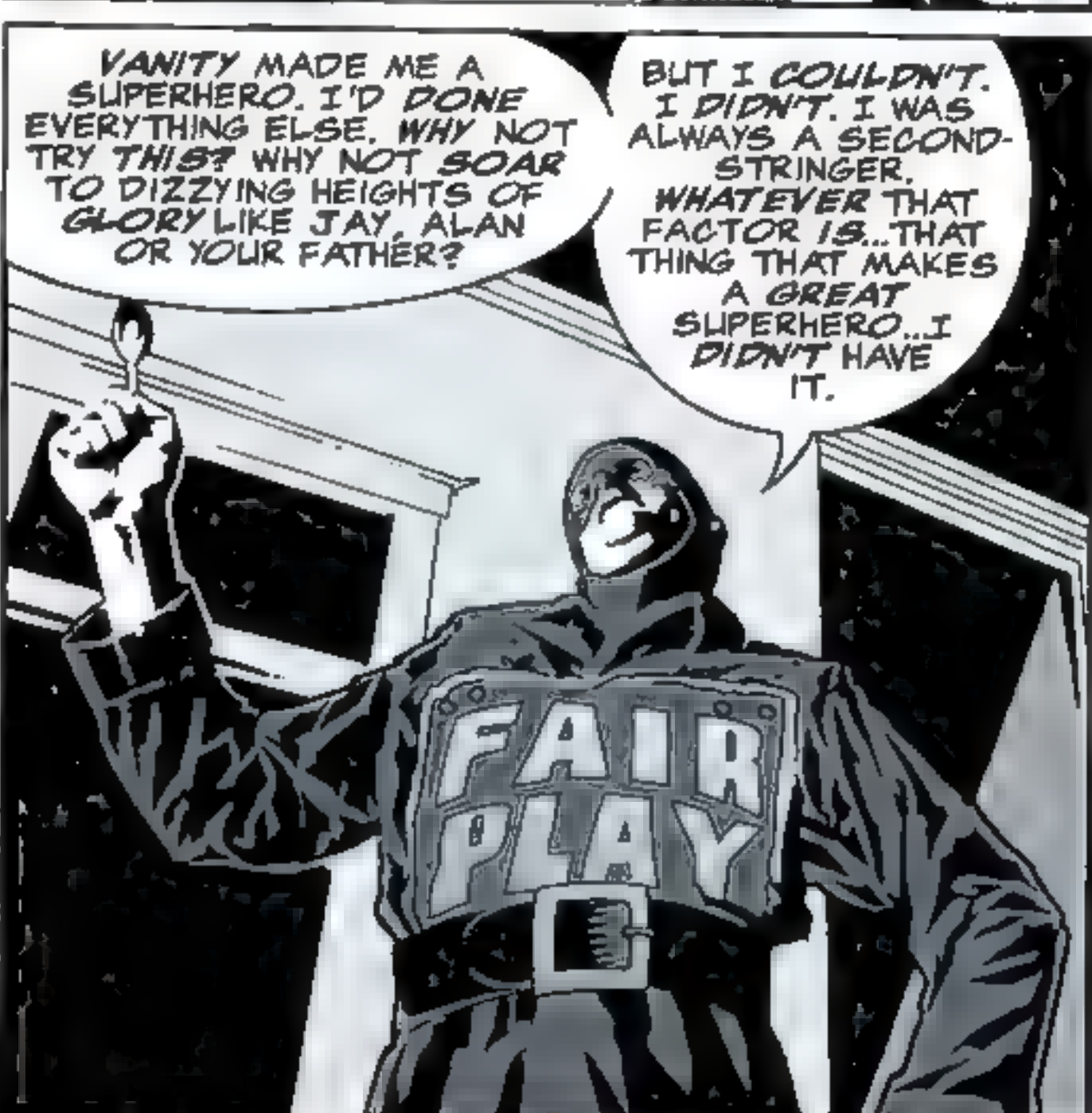
RED MASK,
GREEN TUNIC. RED
LEGGINGS AND BROWN
COMBAT BOOTS.
HARDLY AN AWARD
WINNER.

IT WAS
THE EMBLEM.



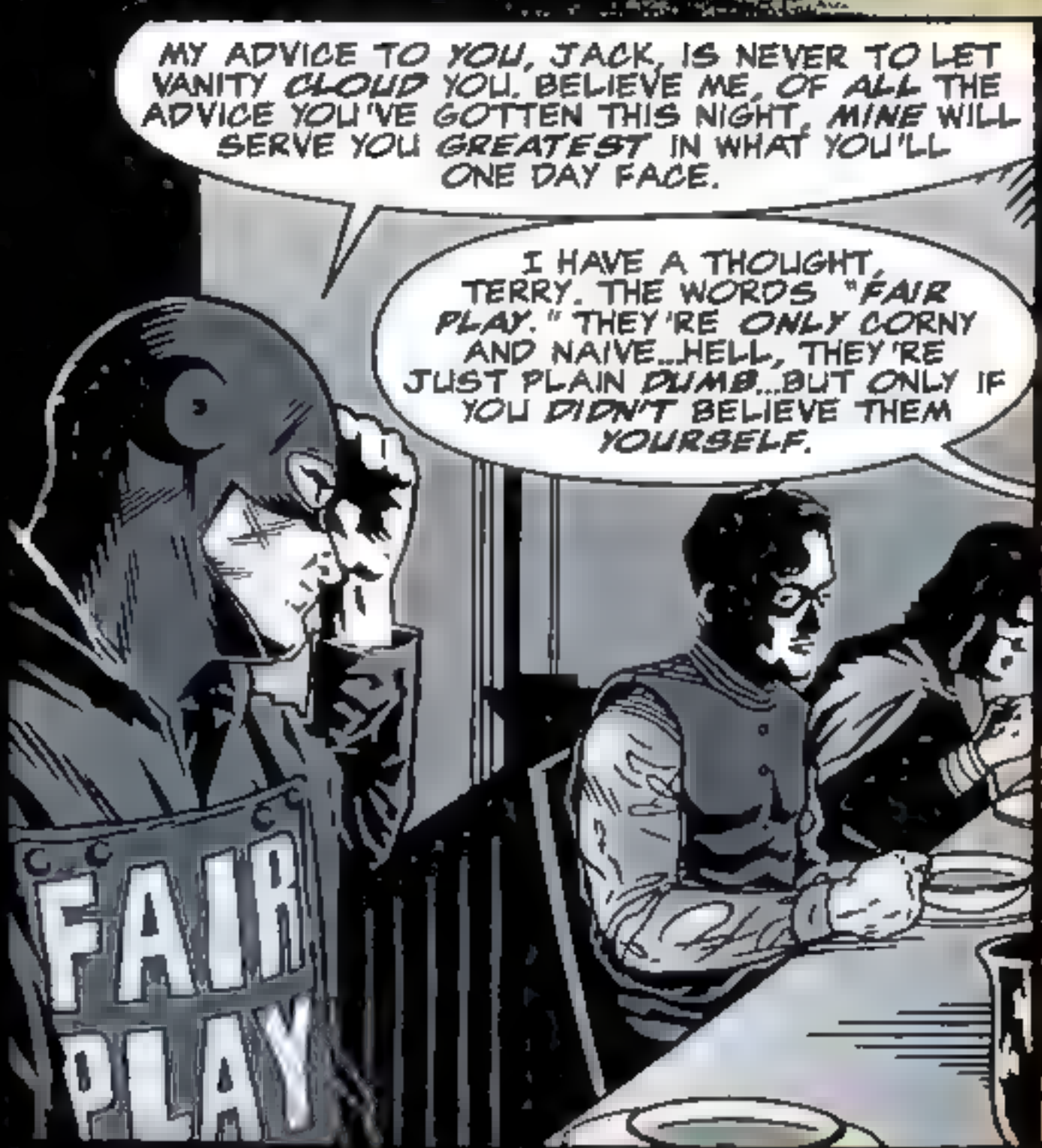
"FAIR PLAY."
HAVING "FAIR
PLAY" AS AN
EMBLEM. THAT'S
WHAT PEOPLE
REMEMBER.
THAT'S WHY THEY
LOVED ME. IT
WAS SO CORNY.
NAIVE. BUT
PEOPLE
BOUGHT IT.

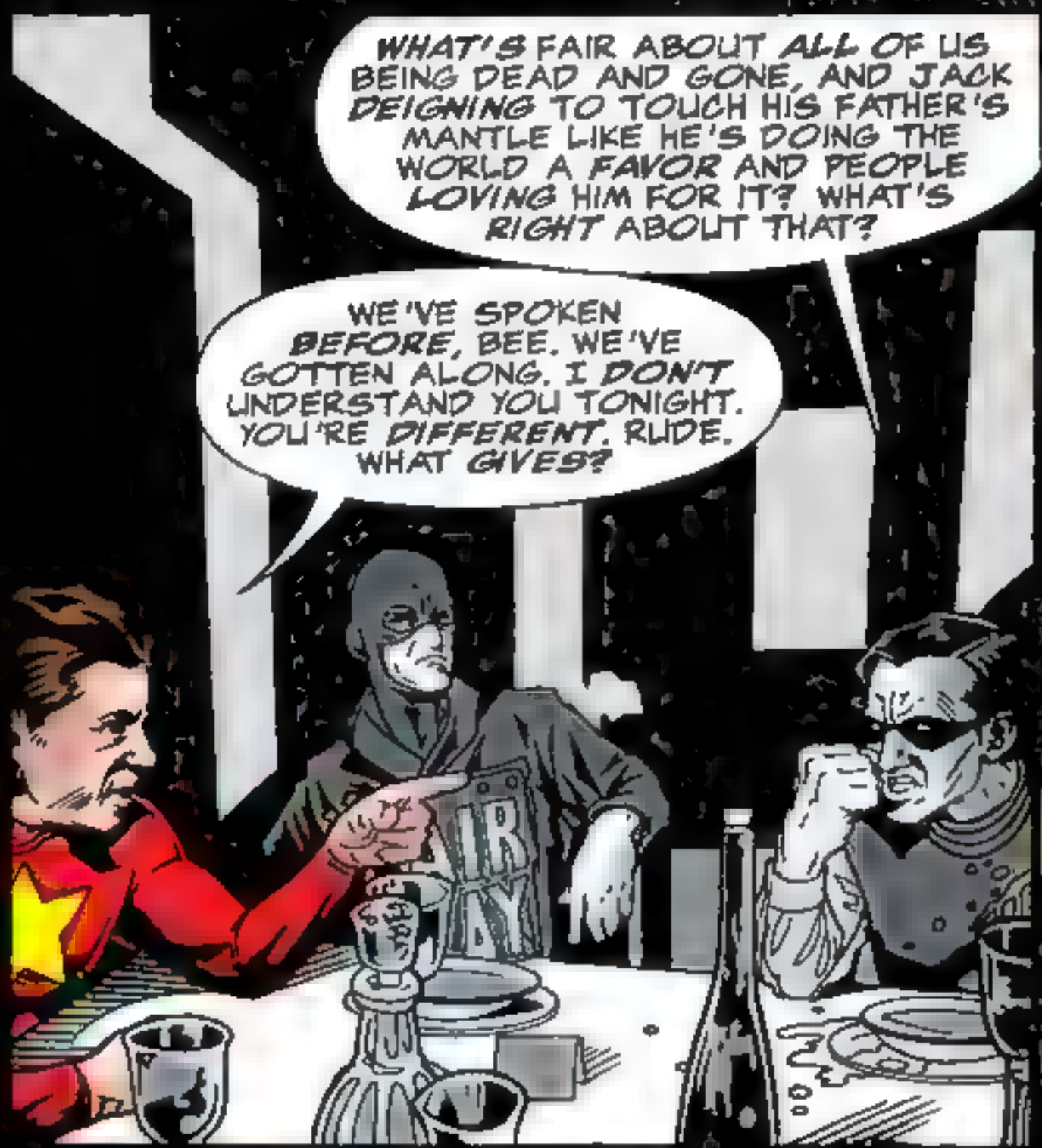
THE TRUTH
IS THAT TERRY
SLOAN WAS
GOOD AT
EVERYTHING.
YOU NAME IT,
AND I'D
MASTERED IT.
I HAD A
NATURAL
APTITUDE AT
HAVING
NATURAL
APTITUDES.



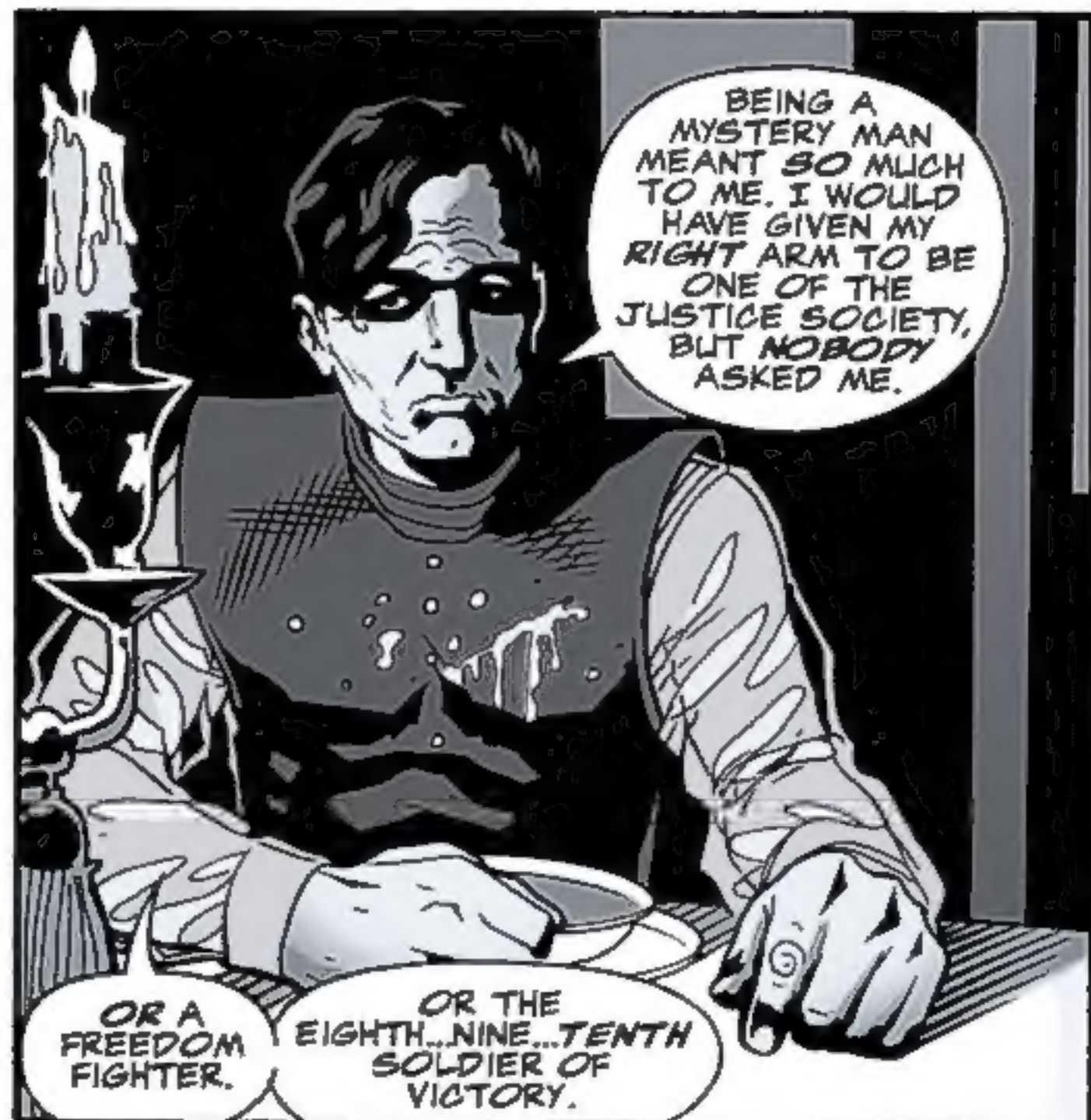
VANITY MADE ME A
SUPERHERO. I'D DONE
EVERYTHING ELSE. WHY NOT
TRY THIS? WHY NOT SOAR
TO DIZZYING HEIGHTS OF
GLORY LIKE JAY, ALAN
OR YOUR FATHER?

BUT I COULDN'T.
I DIDN'T. I WAS
ALWAYS A SECOND-
STRINGER.
WHATEVER THAT
FACTOR IS...THAT
THING THAT MAKES
A GREAT
SUPERHERO...I
DIDN'T HAVE
IT.



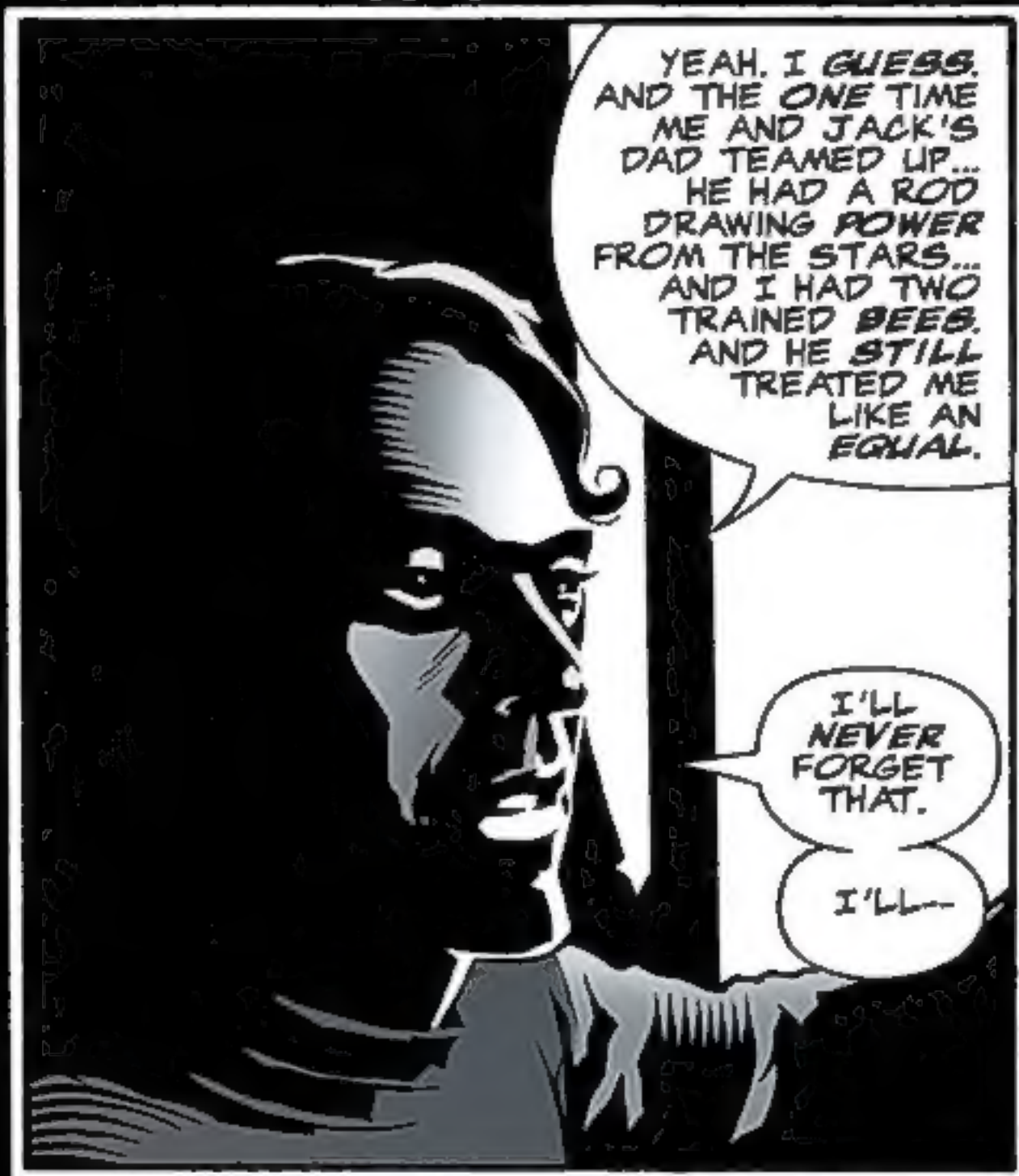


"I TRIED SO HARD TO BE A HERO. SO HARD."





THAT'S LIFE.
THAT'S THE DECK
YOU'RE GIVEN. BUT WE
WEREN'T LAUGHING AT YOU.
YOU WERE ONE OF US. WE
WERE BROTHERS, ALL
OF US.



YEAH. I GUESS.
AND THE ONE TIME
ME AND JACK'S
DAD TEAMED UP...
HE HAD A ROD
DRAWING POWER
FROM THE STARS...
AND I HAD TWO
TRAINED BEES.
AND HE STILL
TREATED ME
LIKE AN
EQUAL.

I'LL
NEVER
FORGET
THAT.

I'LL...



A TOAST.

TO
JACK KNIGHT.
MAY HE BE THE
SON OF HIS
FATHER.

AND
BY FIGHTING
THE FIGHT...BY
LIVING THE
LIFE...



...MAY HE
HONOR US
ALL.

Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP